

The Dordt College Diamond

On the Inside:

Article Review

Responses to an article in *Harper's Magazine*:

consumerism comes to college.

Pages 2,3

Variety

What went on during Hunger Awareness Week.

Page 4

Opinion

Free Press, Global Observatory and Focus speak out on hunger, rape and sexual assault and breaking down denominational barriers.

Page 5

Feature

"Go out into all the world..." Profiles of some of Dordt's missionary children.

Pages 6,7

Entertainment

Considering Lily comes to campus, Rob's review of *Trainspotting*, and cartoons.

Page 11

Sports

More sports than you bargained for; seasons collide and we're covering it all.

November 13, 1997

Volume XLI, Number 5

New science department created this semester

by dirk zwart
Staff Writer

Dordt College has recently added a new department to its academic family. The Environmental Sciences department officially came into being this semester after approximately three years of intensive planning.

Department chair Dr. Petersen says Dordt has offered an Environmental Sciences major for thirteen years, but only now do they have departmental status. This recognition gives more credence to the major and allows more courses and environmentally-focused programs to be created.

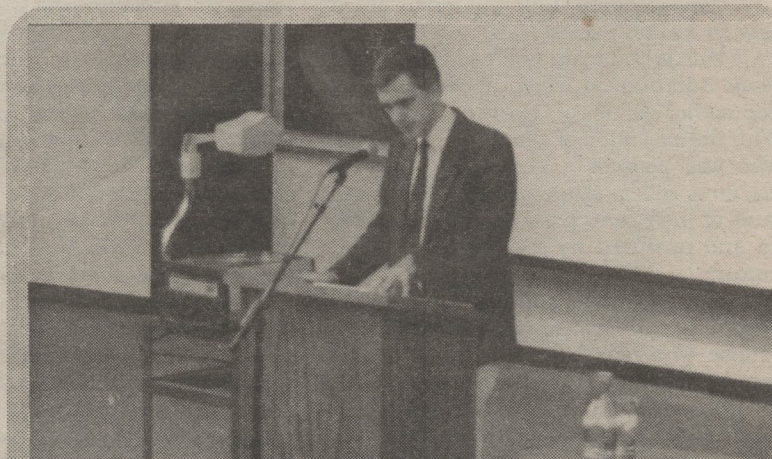
Environmental sciences is a highly interdisciplinary course of studies. Students complete a wide selection of courses from biology, philosophy, chemistry, political science and economics. All these courses create the core for this major and give students the skills needed for jobs they will pursue.

Dr. Peterson hopes that in the near future a number of faculty will be given double assignments. Professors would also be included in the Environmental Studies department, allowing them to bring their learning to the department and incorporate it with the focus of the department.

An official opening for the department was held in the board room, and I was surprised at the number of students who have graduated with this major. Among these was Daniel Sonke, who graduated a few years ago and is now the Assistant-Director for ECHO, a worldwide Christian environmental organization.

The opening was attended by faculty and department heads. Two students also showed for the event. Seniors Lisa Tebben and Dan Rueck both agree with Dr. Petersen's vision that Dordt College should be transformed to truly exhibit the organizing theme of creational stewardship.

This theme emphasizes that we must be caretakers of God's creation in everything we do. This relates to how and where buildings are constructed, how the campus grounds are maintained, what chemicals are



Andy Stravers

David Smith, from Nottingham, England, speaks to students about the benefits of foreign language.

used and how we develop the ground. It also celebrates the advances and changes we make. We often forget to thank those who make changes and greedily ask for more.

Later these students expressed their ideas for how we could incorporate the Agricultural Stewardship Center into this collective vision.

Currently there are 15 students registered in the Environmental Sciences program. Many first-year students have chosen this as their primary major. The department also offers a number of opportunities for off-campus studies or internships.

Students philosophize enroute to Wheaton

by Janel Kragt
Staff Reporter

Early on the morning of Thursday, October 23, 11 of us piled snugly into a Dordt van to embark on the 9 hour trek to Chicago for the annual philosophy conference at Wheaton College. The trip turned out to be more thought-provoking than the conference for many attendees. Non-stop conversation ranging from gender issues, Dordt's history, death's relationship to the fall and life at Dordt in the 60's permeated the van ride. Brain juice also flowed freely as the group compared a Reformed approach to public policy, education and philosophy to approaches of other Christian traditions. Three philosophy professors and their astute pupils in close quarters for an extended period of time can be a very dangerous thing!

After a quick stop at Galena Lookout in Illinois, we pulled into Wheaton just in time for dinner, which according to senior Dan Rueck, "was much better than Dordt food." Following the first lecture, Dordt attendees were matched up with Wheaton philosophy students to bunk down for the weekend.

Interaction with Wheaton students was a very valuable experience for many Dordt students. Wheaton's atmosphere and heterogeneous student body are quite different from Dordt's. Students at Wheaton come from a wide variety of Christian perspectives. Unlike Dordt students, who learn in the con-

text of a unified and distinctive Reformed perspective, Wheaton students are forced to formulate their worldviews on an individual basis. Each professor thus interprets this in his or her own context. Because of this lack of clear direction, Rueck found that the students he encountered tended to create labels for themselves, allowing them to identify with a certain way of looking at the world.

In addition to this discrepancy, Dordt students encountered a different climate of spirituality at Wheaton. Piety and personal spirituality are heavily emphasized at Wheaton. Many students gather early in the morning for discipleship and accountability groups. Students speak of their spirituality often and openly. It is not uncommon to hear the question "What has the Lord been doing in your life?" in routine conversation. Many Dordt students, on the other hand, are uncomfortable with this type of spirituality. Our emphasis on doctrinal correctness and collective revelation, our distrust of emotionalism and experientialism and our holistic worldview make us question this type of spiritual expression. Perhaps our uneasiness is also rooted in the stoicism, stubbornness and smug complacency characteristic of the cultural tradition in CRC circles.

Being confronted with a spiritual climate foreign to Dordt's was very beneficial for attendees of the conference. Taking a critical look at differing perspectives allows us to reform our own. For example, though Rueck

saw a lot of good in the piety he encountered, he was a little critical of the approach. "What I really appreciate about Dordt," he said, "is the 'whole life' approach to spirituality as opposed to piety; devotional life isn't separated at Dordt." Dr. Kok joined Rueck in his affirmation of the value of Dordt students' experience, noting that it is good for students to get off campus to analyze these types of distinctions.

The conference itself, however, was a little disappointing for most of those who attended. Entitled "Realism and Truth," the conference featured nine lectures with the keynote address given by William P. Alston of Syracuse University. Most of us had difficulty grasping the material presented in the lectures and failed to see its relevance.

Dr. Kok pointed out the source of our disappointment when he remarked that the lecturers presented a "very narrow definition of truth." The lecturers approached truth in terms of logical propositions. "Dordt, on the other hand, approaches truth as a matter of covenantal faithfulness," he said. Instead of subjecting God to our laws of logic, Dordt assumes a continental view of philosophy.

By the time the group arrived back at Dordt late Saturday evening, no one disputed that the weekend had been well worthwhile. We came away with a better understanding of who we are in the context of our culture, faith and worldview.

Consumerism goes to college—a challenge to students

by Kirstin Vander Giessen
Staff Writer

Consumerism has rendered liberal arts education useless.

This is the main point of an essay by Mark Edmundson which appeared in the September issue of *Harper's Magazine*. With the exception of a handful of students who still possess a genuine passion for learning, college students today, by no real fault of their own, possess qualities created and nurtured by a popular consumer culture.

Mostly responsible for this travesty, according to Edmundson, is television. "Those who play best on [TV]," he says, "are low key and nonassertive; they blend in. Enthusiasm... quickly looks absurd. . . . Judicious timing is preferred to sudden self assertion." Also included in the media cause is advertising. What Edmundson refers to as persona ads "don't so much endorse the product per se, as show you what sort of person you will be once you've acquired it." He cites the example of "the Jeep ads that features hip, outdoorsy kids whipping a frisby from mountaintop to mountaintop [that] isn't so much about what Jeeps can do as it is about the kind of people who own them. . . . The central thrust of consumer culture [is] buy in order to be."

The result is a student population that is "inhibited, except on ordained occasions, from showing any emotion, stifled from trying to achieve anything original." Students worship anything new, refuse to "indict the current system," and become "cautious and overfragile." Though students maintain the ability to state their likes and dislikes, they essentially lose their ability to be critical.

So how does consumerism carry over into liberal arts education?

"From the start, the contemporary university's relationship with students has a solicitous, nearly servile tone," says Edmundson. From the first day of their junior year in high school, students are bombarded with college propaganda "all trying to capture the student and his tuition cash." Edmundson attributes this persistent marketing with the struggle to "fill the empty chairs" following university growth after WWII and during the baby boomers' generation. So after the "photos and tapes [and] bells and whistles," can a student really expect that college is going to be the least bit difficult? He is, after all, a consumer of education, and "a happy consumer is, by definition, one with multiple options, who can always have what he wants."

In response to this attitude, universities generally aren't doing much. They often have "a tendency to serve—and not to challenge—the students." Classrooms become "environments" in which students listen to and discuss with each other, consequently gaining no new vocabulary or fresh perspectives. Professors become afraid of offending students because the students are afraid of being offended. Genius is not as avidly endorsed as it should be.

Many professors respond to the consumerism plague by succumbing to the attitude of their students. "At a certain point," states Edmundson, "professors stopped being usefully sensitive and became more like careful retailers who have it as a cardinal point of doctrine never to piss the customers off."

The result, Edmundson fears, will be a generation of "one-dimensional men and

women" who are self-righteous, living for pleasure and claiming to be happy.

The solution, on the part of the college, is "a willingness on the part of the faculty to defy student conviction and affront them occasionally—to be usefully offensive." The responsibility ultimately lies with the students though. They have choices.

As I read this article, I found myself, more often than not, cheering Edmundson on. I witness the consumerism attitude in a lot of students on Dordt's campus. "Why should I have to pay \$14,500 to take classes I don't like?" In a sense, students who say this are right. But then why are they here? To combine the ideas of "Christian" and "liberal arts education" immediately implies the payment of a huge sum for the completion of a wide variety of required classes and then some. It all comes down to choices. One can choose to be pampered at a community college or to find value and relevance in required subjects.

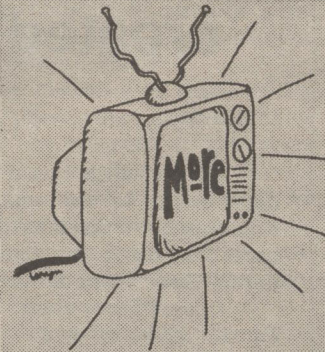
One thing I disliked in the article was how Edmundson waited until the last paragraph to place part of the blame on individual students. Television took its hits early; universities had their share; and Edmundson's own Sixties generation, the parents of the current college students, humbly accepted its sentence. Edmundson says, "It's easy to mount one's high horse and blame the students for this state of affairs. But they didn't create the present culture of consumption. . . . And

they weren't the ones responsible when they were six and seven years old for unplugging the TV set from time to time of hauling off and kicking a hole through it."

Well, we have grown up a bit in 12 or 13 years, one should hope. And if, at 18, we are trusted to make an educated, responsible decision in politics, why can't we be trusted to open our eyes to our domination by consumerism and make a responsible choice concerning that?

Colleges also have choices. They have to decide whether they are going to submit to consumerism or fight it. In different aspects of Dordt, I see different theories. In most professors I've come into contact with, I see rebellion against consumerism, especially in physical science with Professor Hodgson. In East, North, and West halls, as well as in the East campus apartments I see rebellion. Of course, in Southview, I see submission, even though they don't have marble floors and cherry furniture like some college's dorms that I could mention, but won't. And then there's the new rec center—there's a big blow for submission. Nearly seven million dollars into facilities for bodily stewardship. Ouch.

But in what really counts for a college—academics—Dordt is doing a pretty good job of making the choice to challenge students. Now, it's up to the students to fight consumerism and take the challenge without fear of failure, because in the end, they will be stronger for having done so.



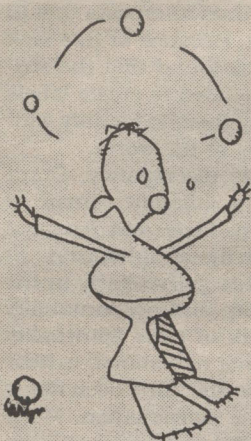
The Juggling Act: What is the task of an educational institution?

by James Schaap
Guest Writer

Life, really, is a juggling act. The real world is replete with priorities and never as simple as it looks. We're all politicians, trying to keep different and competing interests happy.

Take education. Every teacher knows that at least two impeccably sound motives must be juggled constantly: we need to respect the material we're teaching (communication theory, the Hundred Years War, or inorganic chemistry), but we also need to respect the student (Herb, Clara, and Tiffany). I'm a literature teacher, but if I respect Hemingway more than I do my students, I risk losing both their respect and their interest. I may even make a bore or a burden too heavy to carry. We teach subjects and we teach students; I teach Hemingway and human beings. Finding the balance is a full-time job.

What the *Harper's* article reveals in academia is an irritation a goodly number of profs have itched for a long time—specifically, that in the balancing act required by good, sound education, we're tilting too far towards the students. Grade inflation, a fancy new ASK center, a seven million dollar recreation facility, perennial recruiting seductions, and a plethora of "student activities" makes some of us wonder whether we're not running a



year-long CRC Youth Convention.

Case in point. Tonight. Look at the calendar. There's a lecture on campus by a man named David Smith, from Nottingham, England. "Foreign Language: For Profit, Pleasure, or Power?" is the title, sure to shake students from every study desk, right?

Meanwhile, starting at eight, East Campus/Southview is tapping a keg of root beer, with none other than the college president schmoozing up the ice cream. At nine, there's a panel discussion in West Hall lounge. "Your favorite professors" will hold forth on passion and sex. In addition, all night long a hundred or more students will do their intramurals thing in the Rec Center.

Now a student has only so much time, right? Tonight, you tell me what's hot.

Some of us old fogies get a little ornery about the mix. It seems to some of us that the entire educational establishment lies down and begs students to come here. Then, when they do, we pull out all the stops to keep them entertained.

Some of us are ancient enough to believe that's not our job. Our task, our calling, our mandate is to educate, not to entertain. My job is to teach Emerson, Hemingway, and the art of the personal essay. My profession is to teach kids, but also literature and writing. What the *Harper's* article quite nicely documents is that the academic enterprise appears to be tipping away from its man-

date.

There is no golden age, so don't let any prof tell you about some precious time in the past when every last tangent of the academy was in such sync that the campus hummed with the music of the spheres. One century ago profs likely felt the tugs of the same competing interests.

But I thought the *Harper's* article was wonderful. It validated what I've felt happening in higher education for a long time—and in high schools for even longer: we're losing balance. We need to be reminded of the reality of competing interests.

So, as Mark Edmundson, the author, suggests, I've got to gird up my loins for the classroom. As a prof, I've got to understand Hemingway as a "modernist" writer and be able to explain it, not only because it's valuable for my students to be able to understand Hemingway and modernism, but also because they need to understand the post-modern mind so much alive and kicking around them today. And that's not easy—nor entertaining.

Pardon my "dinosaur get-up," but I think that work is more important than a root beer kegger, a potpourri on heavy petting, or even a bucket of sweat in the one facility on campus that makes everything around it look like small potatoes.

We got a job to do here, and often enough that job isn't at all easy or fun or certainly entertaining.

Pardon me now while I get to it. I've got stuff to juggle. I've got a class to teach.

Mark Edmundson, *Harpers Magazine*, Sept. 1997

Striving for ~~knowledge~~ entertainment

by David Schaap
Staff Writer

Between classes and sleep, I procrastinate. But those glorious hours are not wasted. I often ask myself what I'm doing here at Dordt. Am I actually learning anything? Sometimes I venture to guess that I haven't. This isn't a stab at the educational value of this institution. I happen to think that Dordt is an excellent college. There are those that are better, but, for its size, Dordt does quite well. What I'm wondering is whether or not this college is simply selling itself by making it entertaining instead of actually educating us. There is a recent article in *Harper's Magazine* that asks a very good question: Are higher level education institutions turning into a day camp for high school graduates?

The author, Mark Edmundson, asserts that the colleges and universities around the country are finding it increasingly difficult to attract students because of a growing market of higher education. As a result, colleges are buying into American consumerism in order to survive. They need to attract students to pay the bills. So, campuses spend more and more money on attractive athletic facilities (hmm, where has this happened?), larger student unions, etc.

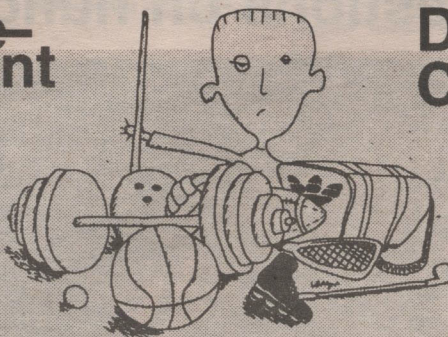
But are the colleges and universities really to blame? Well, not really. In order to attract students, the board of trustees needs to give them what they want. And what do we, as students, want? Entertainment. Whether or not we want to admit it, fellow Generation Xers, most of us are driven to be entertained constantly. I admit that I often feel the same way, as much as I don't like it. I often don't apply myself as much to things that don't catch my fancy. I'm not the only one who does this. Take, for example, Gen 200. This isn't my favorite course, but I am genuinely interested in what the professors have to say. I seem to be one of the few. Sit in on this class and you'll see a large number of dull stares, people in dreamland and about 30 different conversations going on around the room. Gen 200 isn't the only class in which this happens. Mostly, this mentality plagues courses that meet general education requirements. People sit in the back, don't say a thing and do the smallest amount of effort required to get the grade. Again, I won't claim to be completely innocent of this.

So are the Generation X stereotypes true? Are we a bunch of slack-jawed lifeless slob that

simply consume, indulge and whine? Well, it's not completely true, but it's not entirely false either. We are growing up in the initial stages of the Information Age. We are bombarded non-stop with all sorts of images, words and catchphrases. Advertisements are everywhere, and I mean everywhere (they're on bananas now). Cable televisions abound and web surfing computers are becoming more prominent. We have an incredible variety of sources to feed us info and entertain us. We have become so used to this that some of us have forgotten what it is like not to be entertained. We strive for it constantly. For example, I can't just type this article. I have to listen to The Doors at the same time.

Because of students' need to be entertained, often times professors no longer teach, they amuse. Profs can't just teach a subject, they have to liven up the material and spoon feed it to students by playing "Here comes the airplane." This sort of dullness that inhabits the psyche of many of the students doesn't allow for the ideal Socratic method of teaching. Stimulating conversation won't come easily from a crowd that wants simply to be entertained. So, sometimes profs have to take whatever comments that they can force out of students and milk them for all they're worth. Example: Prof. "Fred, what do the shadows represent in this story?" Fred: ".Shadows are dark?" Prof: "Yes, the darkness of the shadow is a metaphor for the character's growing pessimism towards his situation." This happens, and not infrequently. I've seen it many times here at Dordt. It makes me roll my eyes.

Is this attitude taking over the campus of Dordt College? Right now, I don't think it is, but the passionless, apathetic attitude that typifies my generation does exist here to some extent and I think that Dordt is beginning to cater to this sentiment. It has not progressed as far as it has in other institutions, but the possibility exists. What is to be done? Students- let's try to learn something here instead of just drudging through our majors. Profs- Don't give in to the song-and-dance routine method of teaching. Make us learn and think. I know that something like this is not that easy, but think of the alternative result: a bunch of self-indulgent, lifeless vegetables running this world.



Dordt College: \$45,000 Day Camp for Generation X?

by Hannah Atwood
Staff Writer

Food for thought: at Dordt College, the liberal arts education is neither liberal nor especially artistic, so

exactly what kind of education are we supposed to be getting here? What is a liberal arts education anyway, and how do we know that that is what Dordt is actually providing?

Historically speaking, a liberal arts education was intended to provide students with a well-rounded framework of knowledge, and to equip them to understand and deal with problems from many areas of life. And for the most part, this is the type of education that Dordt College, and most undergraduate schools, vocational-technical schools aside, have sought to provide. But just how well are these colleges doing their job? According to Mark Edmundson, professor at the University of Virginia, and author of the recent article in *Harper's Magazine*, "On the Uses of a Liberal Arts Education: I. As Light Entertainment for Bored College Students," the answer to that question is, "Not very well."

Some students may find themselves stuck in classes that seem, to them, to be nothing more than a waste of time and notebook space. Unfortunately, some classes do fit this description all too accurately for many students; a student who writes well and knows his grammar inside and out will hardly rake in a wealth of new wisdom from a semester of English 101. But for most students who complain of being forced to "waste their time" in class, the complaint has little to do with how much of the material they know already; most students seem to actually prefer classes which provide them with an "easy A" and with very little challenge.

Most often, what students' complaints seem to stem from is a belief that if a particular course is not directly useful to them in their particular major, or if the professor is not sufficiently entertaining, then the class is basically useless and they should not be required to take it. This sort of attitude—this idea that college is meant to be nothing more than what Edmundson calls "knowledge factories" and "a cross between summer camp and lotusland"—defeats the purpose of a liberal-arts education altogether.

Students who attend a college like Dordt ought to expect to be challenged in

new disciplines and to expand their knowledge beyond the limited scope of their majors. Dordt, in keeping with the philosophy of a genuine liberal-arts education, asks students to study topics which, like the vegetables our mothers used to make us eat, are good for us, but are not necessarily fun to ingest, and probably do not come buried in the academic Velveeta that our indiscriminating tastes might crave.

If all that we students want is to be fed only the information we need in order to get a job and nothing more, then a liberal arts education is not what we are looking for; a vocational-technical school would be much more practical and much less frustrating. And if all we want from college is four years of in-class entertainment, accompanied by student-sponsored social events, then

what we want is more along the lines of an expensive day camp for the Generation-X crowd.

Students may complain to the administration how unfair it is to make Physics majors study Art and English majors study Biology. They may complain to one another about professors' failure to cater to the short attention spans of a student body raised on pop-tarts and Nickelodeon. But liberal-arts colleges ought to fight the temptation to cave in under pressure. A college claiming to educate in the liberal-arts ought to do just that and should not have to market itself on the basis of how many free dances, private bathrooms and indoor tennis courts it offers, but rather on the basis of how well-rounded its education is, how qualified its professors are and well-equipped its graduates will be.

For the most part, Dordt College has done a decent, though not stellar, job of fighting the tendency to cater to the consumerist mind set of today's generation of students. Dordt College does equip its students with an education that should prepare them to deal with a variety of situations and to use their knowledge from a variety of angles. But Dordt has not escaped the consumerist demands altogether.

The new Recreation Center is a veritable shrine to consumerist ideals—not that the facility cannot or will not be used to honor God, and not that physical education is not also an important part of a liberal-arts curriculum, but let's face it: if Dordt's main interest was to provide a first-rate liberal arts education rather than to create a glitzy and appealing image of a fun day-camp environment, then a lot of money would have gone into a lot of other areas. When was the last time any of us saw a full color, glossy-paged brochure dedicated to the outstanding virtues of Dordt's Philosophy department? The Rec. Center is just one example of many concessions Dordt has made to the demands of our generation, and it will certainly not be the last. But this problem, as Mark Edmundson explains, is not to blame on the college alone.

Dordt, if it wants to stay in business, has to sell itself just like every other college in this country; a top-notch education just does not speak for itself anymore. Every color poster, every superficially cheery post card and video tape, every happy-sappy phone call from the admissions office, and every professor drained of energy from a day of playing stand-up comic to a group of apathetic twenty-somethings speaks of the fact that college is not just about education anymore. And the only people in a real position to stop this problem from getting worse are the students themselves.

The deterioration of the liberal-arts education in America is not a problem that can be easily remedied, but with some time and some conscious decisions on the part of students to support those liberal-arts colleges that are doing their job well, regardless of flashy advertising, we may see this situation begin to change. If America sees that a real education is more important to us than all the Rec. Centers and posters academia can dish out, then maybe—just maybe—the focus of colleges, and of Dordt as well, will start to turn back to where it ought to be.



FOURTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS

Panel discusses common questions on hunger

by Monica M. Bierma
Staff Reporter

World hunger is an insult to the Creator according to a panelist discussing world hunger. The panel discussion was moderated by Keith Starkenburg, Resident Director of North hall, November 4 in C160. The panel discussion was only one of the activities that Dordt provided for the students to become more conscious of World Hunger Awareness week. The panelists were Ken Peterson, an Environmental Studies Professor from Dordt, Dr. Michael Yoder, a professor of Sociology at Northwestern in Orange City, and Tom Soerens, a professor of Theology at Dordt.

The panelists were given a chance to answer the following questions: "Who are the Hungry? Why are they hungry? Why care if others are hungry? And who should respond to the hungry and how should they respond?"

When asked *who are the hungry*, Yoder replied with, "a diverse group of people." Yoder said that the hungry are concentrated in the poorest parts of the world such as Latin America and parts of Asia. Hunger is not as obvious in Sioux County but it is still here, he said.

Soerens lived in Honduras for fourteen years. He said he experienced hunger first hand in Honduras. Soerens said there were kids sniffing glue so they would get rid of their stomach pains. He said the kids normally had shiny eyes and dark hair but the kids that sniffed glue had redish hair and a fat belly from hunger. Soerens said the hungry also includes "Christians, brothers and sisters in the Lord."

Why are the people hungry, Starkenburg asked. Peterson was the first to respond, "It is correct to link poverty and hunger, the poor don't have access to food." He said there is enough world grain to feed six million but we have 5.9 million to feed. Peterson said, "30 percent-40 percent of the U.S. diet is meat. 70 percent of the grain is used to feed animals. We eat the animals and we loose calories in the transfer of grains." Peterson does not have a problem with vegetarianism but he says that "[Americans] consume too much

meat."

"Elitism" is also a problem, Soerens says, "the social structure favors rich people." He also said too often "the Christian church can follow that pattern as well." Soerens says that money could be spent to help the hungry instead of extravagant living. A form of "lucrative living" is in the American culture and it becomes, "serving the poor is an elitist thing."

Yoder said the problem in India and China is overpopulation. The unequal distribution of wealth is also a problem, says Yoder. However, the problem is not always a lack of money, he said, because a lot of junk food is bought and "more pop is consumed than water in the U.S."

Starkenburg asked if the Western culture was using up the resources that could help the hungry. Yoder answered, "Yes, India has five times as many people as the U.S. but we use just as much grain. The U.S.'s grain is eaten by the animals for meat products but India consumes the grain in grain products."

Why should the populous care about the hungry? Soerens immediately replied, "it is an insult to the creator." Soerens also said that one must look at the work of Jesus Christ with the poor. Peterson said, "clearly he cares for the poor, he has compassion and justice for them."

The final question for the evening was *Who should respond to the hungry and how should they respond?* Yoder mentioned a parable of giving someone bread and fish or one can teach them how to make bread and how to fish. Yoder said it is good that some Christians are showing others how to get their food.



Andy Stravers

A panel of professors contend American culture and overpopulation are reasons for a world hunger problem.

A member of the audience, Heather Kuipers, asked the panel what the attitude was of church-goers? Soerens laughed and said, "out of sight, out of mind." Peterson said, "churches are large, healthy, and I notice a comfort and complacency. Everyone is well fed." Peterson suggested that it was a psychological hurdle that the Churches had to pass over. Kuipers asked, "how can the Churches cross this psychological hurdle?" Peterson said the lesson needs to be preached, it needs to be brought home.

Yoder suggested that people buy each other plane tickets so poverty and hunger could be experienced first hand. He said, people should stay for at least one year to know what it is really like not to have food and what Americans consider "necessities." Peterson talked about some Environmental Studies students, who had a life changing experience in Belize. After living in Belize, the students were able to understand the culture first hand. The resources the students worked with enabled them to be more thankful for what they have in the United States.

Reader's Theatre goes on despite poor attendance

by Cheryl Wierda
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, November 5 at 7:30 P.M., a reader's theatre was held as part of Hunger Awareness Week. Poor attendance threatened to cancel the event, but it went ahead despite this, and the play "Decisions," which comes from Indonesia, was presented.

Read by Bonnie Bass, Danielle Kamps, Gena Koning, Cara Miedema, Lisa Ochsner, Livija Shannon and Erin Uitvlugt, the play illustrated one

obstacle in the way of alleviating poverty.

The Indonesian villagers in the play raised \$40, and the families involved were discussing how to invest it. The investments were to be used to stimulate economic activity in the village, and each member had an idea of how they would invest it.

The decision of how to invest the money was left unanswered in the play, and was discussed instead in a discussion group lead by John Hofland.

Poverty and our reactions

to it were discussed, and the members of the reader's theater were struck by the perseverance of the people, as well as how different the situation in Indonesia is from their own lives. Bonnie Bass found it "hard to believe how needy people are," and Livija Shannon was "struck by the huge steps people want[ed] to take" to better their situation in life.

Those who were present also discussed how life in Indonesia is different, as there is a real sense of community. A sense of community causes peo-

ple in this situation not to want handouts, but rather an opportunity to help themselves, said Bass. This was also noted by Becky VanEe, who lived in Mexico and has seen the poverty first-hand. She said that we cannot help people by giving them handouts, but instead we must let them buy things for a reduced price. This will give them pride in ownership. Bass also said, "we must help others help themselves," and this is the only way that we can help alleviate poverty.

Philosophy conference challenges students

by Heidi Petersen
and Dan Droog
Guest Writers

The Dordt students found attending the philosophy conference at Wheaton quite a challenge. From the first keynote address on Thursday night, we were slammed in the face with a kind of philosophy that we as Dordt students had not yet encountered. The conference was based on the book *Truth and Realism*, by William Alston and his defense of the T-schema, which basically holds that "p is true iff p" (snow is white if and only if the fact that snow is white is true). The conference speakers were claiming that this schema has all sorts of implications for life.

The whole "conference" experience was new to most of us. Each presenter read his paper and then the floor was opened for questions. Many of us left the lectures feeling slightly confused with much to talk about.

We came away from the conference with two basic conclusions: first, different Christians approach philosophical issues in different ways. The kind of philosophy done at Wheaton and most other Christian institutions is one of analytical philosophy. It focuses on conclusions that follow from rules of logic. Here at Dordt we have a more narrative approach that focuses on the historical context of philosophic issues and their practical relevance.

The second conclusion we drew is that in order for us to dialogue with others, we need to learn to speak their language and to understand their scholarship. We also need to help them understand where we're coming from and what kind of work we're doing.

At one point during a discussion among Dordt students, Dr. Vander Stelt summarized many of our feelings of frustration about the conference. He said that we were arguing about the relationship of the fire hose to the water while the world is burning. Yet, at the same time, being faced with this challenge and exposed to this frustration opened our eyes to the variety of approaches to Christian scholarship and the need for us to enter this arena. But in order to meet that need, we must approach the debate with a humble readiness to learn and a thoughtful contribution to offer.

FREE PRESS

A story

by Lora Byker
Columnist

Once upon a time there was a college that hung encouraging, invisible posters everywhere on its campus. Posters that trumpeted "Simple Lifestyles!" and "Stewardship is cool!" and "O-B-E-Y! That's the school's battle cry!" Posters that chanted "Trans-form Cul-ture!" and "Go, Fight, Serve!" and "The Poor! The Poor! It's a Plan—we should help them how we can!"

Though the students couldn't see them, they knew these posters were up on the walls in every classroom, and they could feel the rallying slogans as they passed through the halls. Basically, everyone liked the sentiments they expressed. Especially the school's professors—they became some of the loudest (and cutest!) cheerleaders of the posters, lauding the signs as representations of true school spirit.

Then a funny incident happened to the school which tested the validity of the posters. On one certain chilly, November week, two events presented themselves for the students to be involved in. Both were approved by the Poster-Makers.

The first was a whole week's worth of opportunities to help the Poor: students were invited to write letters to their senators about the needy, to sacrifice their food through either donation or fasting, and to join in a special world hunger prayer meeting.

And, at the close of this "Hunger Week" came the second opportunity. Students were given the chance to travel to the Big City for no other reason than to spend their money shopping at America's Mall. Of course, there were a few Fanatics who decried this as "Offering up finances to the god of Consumerism at the Great Temple of Materialism," but they are just Fanatics.

This mall-opportunity was different from the hunger-opportunity in that the school donated their resources (namely their vans) in order to make sure the students could go.

So the invisible poster themes of "simplicity" and "service" were concretely put to the test that week in the lives of the students. And the result?

Well, the rest of the story is that there was such an overwhelming response by students choosing to go to the Mall that there was a waiting list. And one sad fanatic moaned over the fact that "more than ELEVEN TIMES as many students went to pay tribute to the god Accumulation as those that went to pray and confess the idolatry of it."

Of course, the Reasonable Reader will attest that shopping, in itself, is not an evil or an idolatry, and that some students did fast and donate food.

But is there room for the Reader to hear the voice of the Fanatic challenging the fictional school's priorities?

Perhaps it's true what the Fanatic says, that for a certain November week, the invisible posters crumpled and fell.

Global Observatory: Me and a gun, and a man on my back

by dirk zwart
Columnist

"Midnight in the Subway, She's on her way home, She tries hard not to run, But she knows she's not alone, Echoes of foot steps follow close behind, But she dare not turn around." Robert Smith's depiction of where a sexual assault or rape may take place might be your first "text book" scenario; another one could be a college campus.

Rape is not something you are taught about when dad or mom give you the "where babies come from" speech. No one wants to describe to you in colorful detail how someone is going to touch you and how guilty it is going to make you feel. Even a boyfriend or girlfriend can sexually assault their companion. Just because they've kissed you or held your hand is not a green light for fondling.

A mentor has told me, "turn your antenna on," meaning be aware of what is around you, but that advice is not helpful if you are not told what to look out for. The title of this column is from a Tori Amos song, in which she retells her experience of being raped. Sung a cappella, it gives the helpless feeling that I'm sure others have felt, even when she had a form of "protection" with her.

The hard facts truth is that people you know are most likely the people to rape or sexually assault you. This is why you must be so careful on a college campus and, I believe, more careful at Dordt. I vividly remember reading in Time Magazine a few years ago that the Mid-west "Bible Belt" has the highest numbers of acquaintance rape or sexual assault in the nation, basically because people in this area are too naive.

The Dordt Defender does not say much either. The Defender would rather that no one outside of Dordt's Campus would have any notion that rape or sexual assault happens at Dordt College. Only in the case of a rape, "intercourse-by force-without consent" does it offer among it's list of people to contact, "(and the police if you so desire)." This is unfortunate.

Any of these actions must be immediately reported to police. The FBI classifies it as Forcible Sexual Offense, the highest level of sexual offense. The FBI defines a Forcible Sexual Offense as "Any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly or against that person's will. Includes forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling." It is traumatic, but once someone touches you and you don't say "NO," it will keep happening and you will start to expect it.

Exposing stories of people who have been sexually assaulted or raped on Dordt's campus is not the focus of this column. Recovering from such instances is painful to say the least, and not something that a victim wants to have published in the "Today." To be violated is an awful feeling, knowing someone else has carnal knowledge of your breasts or genitals without your consent should make you as queasy as reading the words themselves.

How can you prevent yourself from either a planned occurrence of rape or an urge that just crept up on someone you were with, possibly on a date?

- Don't be entirely dependent, but for awhile in a new relationship go places or on dates with friends you know.
- Don't watch a movie alone with a new person. Sit at a comfortable distance. "Travelling Hands," can do more damage than you may admit.
- If you need to look someone's picture up in the Student Directory or now conveniently on the Web so you

know who they are before you go on a date—you should not be going on that date.

- If it sounds romantic when someone tells you that they have been watching you for the last few weeks without your knowledge, don't think "Oh, how nice, they must have a crush on me" think "STALKER" who has been thinking about you and can probably not be socially or mentally trusted within any close proximity to you.

- If someone tells you they would like to date you and continue to ask after you declined, you cannot trust to be alone with this person under any circumstance.

- If you call Campus Security to escort you anywhere on campus or you feel endangered, do not take, "I'm locking up the Classroom Building, can I find you in fifteen minutes?" as an excuse. Your personal safety is much more important and Campus Security's primary objective is to protect the safety of students on campus.

- These actions are not limited to students, but a faculty or staff member making reference to your body or how the other sex should perceive you is a violation and just as damaging.

- Never accept blame. People try to brush it off too fast saying that the victim provoked it. This is not the case. Unless you asked someone to rape or sexually assault you, you did not provoke it.

- Carrying a gun, knife, or "PepperSpray," could actually be to your disadvantage. Males generally have more upper body strength and can easily turn your defense into an offense. It is best to keep your distance until you can trust the person you are with.

- Call the Police first, immediately. They are trained to investigate and act on such charges. Evidence in such cases can deteriorate quickly as you mentally try to suppress the memory and the sooner someone can legally document it, the better. Also, as yucky as it feels or looks, DO NOT shower, wash yourself, clean your room or wherever this took place or change clothes. A rapist leaves incriminating DNA evidence everywhere they go. If you clean up, the first line of defense is erased for good.

It would be nice to believe that this message has been said before and that people are respectful of others. I would like to rest at night knowing that students are safe. This is not the case. Statisticians claim that one in four women are raped or sexually assaulted, but that only one in ten report it. Undoubtedly, such occurrences happen on campus, but no one reports them. How else would you explain the false sense of security proclaimed by all the zeros in the convictions lists in our Defender? Insiders reported to me that two rapes or sexual assaults occurred in Southview last year and were reported to Residence Life Staff, yet nothing was done and nothing shown to represent them. It is also interesting that some wording in the rape section was changed in this year's Defender, but statistics are still two years old.

. This column is not meant to be read by females thinking about the awful boys on campus, because males are also at risk; but as a message to everyone pleading that they be aware of the possible consequences of their actions.

If you or someone you know has been raped or sexually assaulted you know how damaging this has been and how untrusting he/she may become of people afterwards. Help your friends, and if someone asks you for help, make that your first priority. A few minutes of your time may save years of pain for someone else.

FOCUS

by Jamie L. Stoy
Columnist

1 Cor. 12:12-14 (NKJV) - "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many."

Take all the "Christian" denominations of the world and lump them together as a

There are no denominations in God's kingdom

whole. See them as a mass of human beings of different races, cultures, and backgrounds. Now, start stripping away the things that are tended to be viewed as "denominational". Strip away the strict doctrines, strip away the frigid traditions, strip away the book smarts and years of seminary. Strip away the priestly robes and clerical collars, strip away the fancy titles of deacon or elder or even pastor, strip away the emotional sermons and pulpit pounding oratories. Strip away the theological debates, strip away the arguments of predestination, pre-, post-, or mid-tribulation, the 24 hour days of creation, and whether or

not Adam and Eve had belly buttons. Strip away the speaking in tongues, prophesying, and baptisms in the Spirit, strip away the good deeds, strip away the names, the buildings, and church titles. Take it all away and leave them as Christ died for them, wretched, sinful people. Now, look at them again, closely and intently. What remains when the masks and denominations are stripped away? A whole hearted devotion and love relationship with the Lord God, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit? Or nothing. There are no "denominations" in the Heavenly Father's kingdom. When we stand before the Great White Throne of Judgment,

we will be just a mass of people from different countries, backgrounds and cultures with only one difference between us; the question of which master we served.

Please, don't put on labels of "CRC", "Presbyterian", "Evangelical", "Baptist", "liberal" or "charismatic" when the real issue deals with one's heart for the Lord.

Romans 12:4-5 (NKJV) - "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

Go out into the



Growing up in two different countries is like being in two different worlds, yet you can see connections between the two. Just ask freshman Amy Gesch. She has spent about two thirds of her life in Peru, the other six years in the States. "I didn't get the whole experience of living in Peru because we lived on a compound with mostly other Americans and Europeans." Amy's dad taught high school on the compound where her

family lived. Most of the other families were there as missionaries so many of Amy's friends were American like herself. "We lived with a small group of people so we all became really close like an extended family," Amy recalled. Her whole high school consisted of about 20 students.

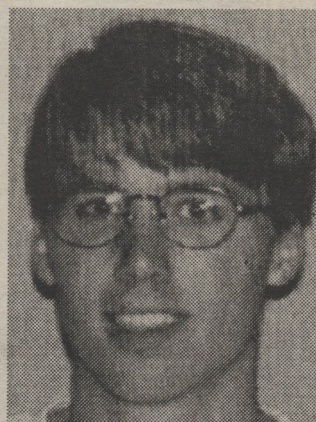
Though she lived on a compound, Amy was able to experience the culture in Latin America. "In the large cities, like Lima, the capitol, there is a lot of American influence. There are fast food joints and supermarkets just like you would find in the U.S." Yet there were still obvious differences. "You find so much more abundance here (United States) than you would in Peru. Here you go to the store and there is so many choices, down there you won't find all the brand names for every type of food." She believed the American culture is a lot more materialistic.

Another difference Amy can tell between the two cultures is time. "Being on time isn't important to the people, it's not uncommon for a bride to be up to two hours late to her own wedding. But that's what the people are used to in Peru."

Amy had the opportunity to go out into the country and share her own faith with the natives. When she was younger and her parents traveled to tribal villages, Amy always went with them. "Frequently while they worked, I would get to play with the children in the village." Amy was also involved in a song and mime ministry group. Her group would travel to churches and witness through mime and singing. In the future, Amy has also considered mission work. Yet she doesn't know when or where she would like to work. Her experience in another country has had a positive influence on her growing up. She said she has heard many use the excuse that missions in a foreign country isn't for a family, or many want to wait until the kids have grown up. Amy disagrees, "I think it is the best thing that can happen to a kid."



Amy Gesch and friends after a game of mud soccer in Peru.



Being a missionary in a different country is "a wonderful privilege because you get to know another language and culture. It gives you a different outlook on life."

Daniel Rueck, a senior at Dordt, was born in Vienna, and spent the first ten years of his life in Austria. His parents are involved with

Child Evangelism Fellowship, an interdenominational organization, and are currently working in Hungary. His dad teaches seminars for instructing children, and his mom helps teach the children and set up Bible clubs.

Austria is "considered home" to Rueck, whose first language is German. But his parents wanted him and his older siblings to experience life in North American culture, so when Rueck was ten, his family moved back to North America.

While in Austria, Rueck's mother tried to teach English to her children by speaking it to them, but Rueck would reply in German. When Rueck entered fifth grade in Alberta, Canada, he could speak English, but he could not read or write it. For book reports in school, he would write the project out in German, and his mom would help him translate it.

Because he was quite young when his family moved, Rueck adjusted quickly to the change in culture. However, he found it confusing because he did not know where he belonged. After they moved, and during previous furloughs, people would ask him how it felt to be home. But to Rueck, Austria was home, and being in North America was like being in a foreign country.

Helping his parents mission was not a big part of Rueck's life, because he was so young when he was in Austria. However, a big part of his parent's work was "interacting one on one with the people, learning the language." This interaction was something that Rueck could participate in, and he learned more about Austrian culture by doing so.

In 1993, Rueck visited his parents in Hungary, and was able to be more active in the mission work by helping his parents teach the children. But when asked if he would be a missionary in the future, Rueck said that he is not interested in doing the types of mission work that is commonly associated with that word. Instead, Rueck would like to use what he has learned about environmental studies as a type of mission work. He notices that Christians have been negligent in the aspect of stewardship toward the environment, and finds this to be a different area to focus on. Says Rueck: "This emphasis on 'missioning' [as it is commonly defined], disregards that there are other parts to people's lives."

Contributing Writers
Lieschen Hoeksema
Cheryl Wierda
Susan Vandermeer

- Q:** What cultural differences did you experience while growing up in Austria?
Becky: Definitely time and materialism. Being on time is not important to the people. Also, people in the U.S. have so many material possessions and don't realize it. Material possessions aren't as important to them.
- Q:** What was the main barrier that you encountered when you moved to North America?
Jon: There was a language barrier. The country itself was 80% Tok Pisin. It's basically murdered the English language.
- English:** My name is Jon.
Tok Pisin: Nem bilong mi em i Jon.
- Q:** How do you view missionary work?
Dan: It bothers me that there is an emphasis on oral missions--speaking the Word verbally and the written Word. It is more than just that. It is a whole life.
- Q:** Do you think that growing up in a different culture has helped you in your mission work?
Amy: Yes. I think that it is the best thing that can happen to a kid. It changes growing up there for any other experience.



Dan Rueck's parents have been in various parts of the world teaching kids in various parts of the world. Child Evangelism Fellowship.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28: 19-20

the world. . .

"It was certainly very different, another world, in fact, compared to the US," commented sophomore Jon Vander Wal, who lived with his family in Papua New Guinea for three and a half years before coming to Dordt.

As part of their cultural training, Jon and his family lived as the only white people in a village to get themselves acquainted with their surroundings before the actual work began. They spent that time with the people, living the way they did. This meant no electricity, no running water and cooking over an open fire. Their home for those five weeks of training was made of jungle materials and a thatched roof, with a cracked floor that allowed them to see pigs, dogs and little children running underneath.

Baths were taken in a nearby, cold stream. Later on, when they got into their work, Jon's family moved to the main mission center, which was mostly a white community. Jon's dad worked as a mechanic there and trained many natives in that line of work. They would visit the villages from time to time.

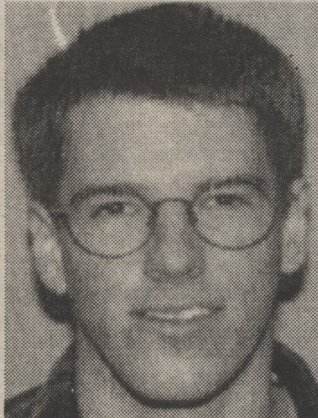
The culture in Papua New Guinea lacked what many of us take for granted here in North America. Electricity was never reliable and would shut off various times a night. Waiting occurred quite a bit. "In fact, it would only be an inconvenience to spend the night somewhere if the person who was supposed to pick you up didn't feel like coming." Roads were very bad as well. It took about seven hours to travel distances of 100 miles, whereas here it would take one and one half hours. Crime was another constant problem. Gangs would frequently come into the area where Jon lived. His dad was personally involved in stopping a break-in at a neighbor's home. "It is scary when

things like that happen, but you learn to trust in God for protection. Dordt's stealing problem, although bad at times, is nothing compared to the problems there." One learned to be careful with where belongings were left, including bicycles, cars or any other useful objects. Walking outside after dark was not allowed due to the fear of being attacked. "Sadly, sometimes our precautions did not work and there were some women who were raped. It was tough when things like that happened, and it really made us wonder why it happened to people who were serving the Lord wholeheartedly."

Many strong relationships were developed. There were no theatres, no malls, no restaurants, no Internet, no TV stations, few radio stations and very few places to go. With none of the sources of entertainment that are taken for granted in the West, Jon learned to have fun talking to others and enjoying their company. "The relationships I developed with my good friends in high school were very deep. The things we discussed on our long walks gave me a foundation in life that I think I would have missed out on had I not lived there. Also, being spiritual was where it was at for us. In my class in high school, church and youth group activities were the center of our lives."

In coming back to the US, Jon found it difficult to get used to the materialism and apathy people are caught up in. Peoples' wants and consumption of products seemed overwhelming after living comfortably with much less. Values were different, too. Patience was practiced more. Church services can last for three or four hours, and many of the people in the audience would speak without concern for brevity.

When asked about mission work in his future Jon, a theology major, said, "I plan to become a Bible translator. If the Lord continues to lead me in this direction, I will probably join Wycliffe Bible Translators, which my parents are part of. I've seen first-hand what this sort of life is like and I love it! I can't think of a more fulfilling and wonderful way for God to use me than in missions."



"I was born in Grand Rapids, raised in Yucatan (Mexico) and have attended school in British Columbia, Ontario, and Orange City." For many of us, moving around so often, attending schools in three different countries, even living in three different countries would be a lot to imagine. Yet Becky Van Ee doesn't know life any other way. "For me it was normal growing up in the Mexican culture, being in the States is what feels different for me."



Becky Van Ee, a freshman, grew up as a missionary's daughter in southern Mexico. She is one of six children; both of her parents have been missionaries as long as she can remember. The Hispanic culture is what Becky is used to. When she does come back to the States (her family takes a furlough every three years) it is the American culture that she must adjust to. "In Mexico, time is so relative; people aren't on time; it isn't important in that culture. When I come here, if I have to meet someone at 2:00, I know they will be there at 2:00. It isn't the same in Mexico." A frustration Becky has when coming to the States is how materialistic the American culture is. "People talk about struggling to get by, yet they have so much compared to the people in Mexico. So much is taken for granted here."

In Mexico, Becky was home-schooled by her parents but on furlough she attended schools. It was always a goal of her parents that their children would be able to attend college in the United States.

While in Mexico, Becky was able to use her gifts to serve God by helping the people by translating. Becky is fluent in English and Spanish. When volunteer groups came down and weren't able to understand the language, Becky would step in and help out. Becky dreams of someday being able to live in a different country besides the U.S. after college. "It is what I'd love to do, but it must be God's will first."



Becky Van Ee interacts with Mexican children while rain hampers the showing of the "Jesus" film.

Heartbreaker brings women's soccer season to a close

by Janel Kragt
Sports Reporter

The women's soccer season concluded last Saturday after a four-hour battle waged against visiting University of Mary. Though the scoreboard showed U of Mary to be the victors, the game technically does not count as a loss for Dordt; the game's tied score was broken only in a shootout after double overtime. The Lady Defenders, who ended the season with a record of 15-3-2* (the asterisk is for the shootout loss), didn't earn a berth to the Great Plains Regional playoffs, but did enjoy a very successful season.

National 4, Dordt 1

The women's soccer team headed off for a weekend road trip to Rapid City, S.D., on Reformation Day. The team faced National University on Friday and Bethany College from Kansas on Saturday. Teri Jansma booted in Dordt's solo goal in the 4-1 loss to National. The women played a tough game but committed some costly defensive errors.

Dordt 2, Bethany 1

The Lady Defenders dominated offensively in their last regular season game as they took home the win against Bethany. Krista Krikke and Kathy Elenbaas put in the goals. Elenbaas also had an assist for the Defenders, as did forward Kalie Gaskill.

Dordt spent most of the game on the offensive end of the field. The ladies had 25 shots at the goal, compared to Bethany's five, all but one of which were saved by goalie Kristin Zomermaand.

Dordt 1, Westmar 0

After a first round bye in the



James De Boer

Hannah Christoffels turns to keep with her Mary opponent in Dordt's shoot-out loss last Saturday.

Independent Region playoffs, Dordt met Westmar in round two last Wednesday. Coach Jeanie Elgersma said the ladies "played their hearts out and played as a unit." The team played heads-up ball, enabling them to come out with the win.

The team's strategy to play pressured defense on Westmar paid off. "Pressure Westmar," chimed Coach Elgersma, "and they can't handle it." Gaskill put in the winning goal for Dordt and was assisted by Heather Williams.

University of Mary 3, Dordt 2*

After Wednesday's win, the team was excited to meet the challenge against National on Saturday in the Independent

Region finals. However, a upset win over National landed University of Mary in the final game which was hosted by Dordt. Fans packed the sidelines as they huddled together under blankets to cheer the team on despite the cold.

The two teams were evenly matched, and they fought neck in neck with a lot of pushing and aggressive play. Williams, assisted by Krikke, scored Dordt's first goal early in the first half with a nice shot from 15 yards out. The second goal, assisted by Gaskill, was scored by Heather Broekhuis in the early minutes of the first overtime period.

The Marauders matched both goals, but neither team scored again in either overtime play or sudden-death overtime. However, with the playoff status of the game, it could not end in a tie. Mary made its first three goals in the shootout, while Dordt, behind the efforts of Gaskill, Erin Staal and Sarah Vriend, was not able to put any shots in the goal and took the loss.

Coach Elgersma said she couldn't have asked for anything more from the girls. "We had a good season for a second-year program," she remarked. In reference to the game, Coach Elgersma added, "We played hard, and we played well. It was a very long game."

Senior forward Krista Krikke joined Elgersma's praise of the team. "We had an excellent season," she said. "We had a lot of fun and really gelled well. Especially at the end of the season, we really came together." Krikke and Teri Jansma are the only two graduating seniors from the team in just its second year as a varsity sport.

Harriers to Nationals

by Jeff Mummelaar
Sports Reporter

On Saturday, Nov. 1 the cross country teams finished their seasons. Both the men and the women's teams placed second at the conference meet. But a handful of runners advance to the NAIA Nationals this year.

The women's team came in close behind Dakota State. The Lady T's had 43 points, while Dordt finished with 45.

Becky Van De Griend came in first for the Dordt women at fifth place. Heidi Bartholomew finished eighth in the race. At tenth place was Kristen Schemmerhorn. Tabitha Vander Wilt finished 12th. Cathy Palmer came in 14th. At 26th was Julie Huizenga, and Christy Phillips finished 32nd.

Sioux Falls won the men's conference race with 31 points. Dordt had 41 points.

The first runner to finish for the Dordt men was Jeff Summerhays at fourth place. Scott De Weerd finished at seventh place, and Jason De Weerd came in eighth. At 15th was Jon Vander Kooy. Nathaniel Kok finished 16th, Peter Simmons 18th and Matt Oostra 30th place.

"Sure, it's disappointing to be second in both divisions, especially when we were so close," said Coach Ross Goheen. "But I'm certainly not disappointed in the runners themselves. It was a thrill to be there to witness these runners pour out their heart(s) for the team."

Schemmerhorn and Palmer received nominations as All-American Scholar Athletes after the conference meet. Sarah Pluin and Van De Griend had previously qualified for this honor.

Both teams will each send two runners to the Nationals this year. Summerhays and Scott De Weerd qualified for the men. Van De Griend and Bartholomew will go for the women. The meet Saturday, Nov. 15, in Kenosha, Wisc.

13 of her own.

The victory gave Dordt a final regular season mark of 19-12 and 6-2 in the conference. The Lady Defenders travel to the Black Hills for the SDIC playoffs to be held Saturday, Nov. 15, in Spearfish, S.D.

Dordt plays South Dakota Tech at 2:00p.m. central time, and if they win will play the winner of the Black Hills State/Sioux Falls contest at 6:00 p.m.

The winner goes on to the Great Plains Regional at Minnesota-Crookston University to be held on Nov. 21 and 22.

Soccer men wrap up year

by Todd Lee
Sports Writer

The Defenders split two games with a 1-0 victory over Bethany and a 3-1 loss to National University before heading into last week's playoffs.

In the Bethany game the goal was scored by Erik Van Riessen with an assist from Jon Pelster. The men played stellar defense giving Bethany the goose egg.

The second game was played against an extremely strong National team and even though Dordt played their hearts out a slow start and missed opportunities plagued them.

"We struggled in the first half," said Coach Bill Elgersma. "It was more psychological than physical. We were just apprehensive."

Scott Mickelson smoked the goal home for Dordt. It was a header from a defenseman and Mickelson one timed it for a sparkling goal.

Defender goalie Chris Muller had the game of his life with 41

saves. Shots on goal favored National 44-8. Elgersma credited Muller for keeping it as close as it was and by saying it could have been a lot worse if it weren't for his play.

Dordt opened the playoffs at home last Tuesday with the University of Mary. The Defenders scored once in the first and iced the game in the second with four more to win 5-0.

Mickelson scored twice as did Pelster. Van Riessen netted the other goal. Amos Doornbos and Wes Jackson each had two assists. Van Riessen, Willy Venant and Lamont Bos had once each.

The Defenders returned to National Thursday for a rematch. After a scoreless first half, the two teams traded goals midway through the second half.

But National wrapped up the game with two more to win 3-1. Mickelson scored the lone goal.

Dordt ends the year 11-6-2. Amos Doornbos, Erik Van Riessen and Steve Gerritsma are the only graduating seniors.

Women end regular season

by Craig Broek
Sports Reporter

Dordt's Lady Defenders ended the 1997 regular season last week. The women finished the season by splitting four matches including two important conference wins.

Dordt 3, Westmar 0

Dordt opened with Westmar University on Thursday, October 30. The women sent the visitors home early with a quick 3-0 match, winning by scores of 15-4, 15-11, and 15-4.

The Lady Defenders were led by Alyssa Van't Hul with 13 kills, and Mindy Boogerd with 11. Karen Netz and Van't Hul each had three ace serves.

St. Mary 3, Dordt 0

The following Saturday the Lady Defenders traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to take on the College of St. Mary. Dordt came back disappointed with a 3-0 loss in game scores of 15-12, 15-3, and 15-10. Janna

Van Donge and Netz each had six kills to lead the Dordt attack.

Wayne State 3, Dordt 0

After the weekend, the women traveled to Wayne State College, where they suffered their second three game sweep in a row. Despite some exciting volleyball, Dordt lost by scores of 18-16, 15-11, and 15-4.

A balanced Dordt attack was led by Boogerd with 15 kills and Van Donge with 13. Netz and Van't Hul each had 12.

Dordt 3, Sioux Falls 0

The Lady Defenders finally returned home on November 6 for their final game of the season versus conference foe, the University of Sioux Falls.

Dordt needed this match to secure a spot in the playoffs, and the women did it in fine fashion, winning 15-12, 15-10, and 15-13.

Mindy Boogerd stepped up her performance and came through with 18 kills to lead the attack. Van Donge chipped in

Dordt men tip off new season

by **Corey Westra**
Dordt SID
and **Craig Broek**
Sports Reporter

It's being called the beginning of a new era for Dordt College men's basketball. Coach Greg Van Soelen's Defenders took the court last night without four senior starters from last year's team that went 17-12 and 9-7 in the South Dakota-Iowa Conference. Dordt wrapped up last season by just missing a trip to nationals, losing to South Dakota Tech in the post-season conference championship.

Greg Van Soelen enters his third season as head coach with a career mark of 33-25. He will be assisted by Wes Fopma once again this year.

Ross Bouma is the lone starter back from last year's team. Bouma led the team last year in scoring with 12.7 points per game and was named all-conference in the SDIC. The 6'2" guard/forward is one

of three seniors on this year's team.

Troy Van Essen, 6'4", was another key reserve as a shooting guard last year, averaging six points off the bench and shooting 46 percent from behind the three-point line. He will see some action as a forward this year.

Brad Veenstra is in the back court again this season. The 6'3" Veenstra, hampered by knee problems last year, averaged two points and one rebound per game in limited action.

Senior Dan Howerzyl was to be the man in the middle this year. But the 6'5" lefty decided during the preseason to concentrate on his studies this year as well as participate in the Netherlandic SPICE program this spring.

The four juniors on this year's team are relatively new to varsity competition. Mike Fischer (5'10" guard), Mike Fransman (6'2" guard), Mike Elenbaas (6'4" forward) and Wiebe Vander Hoek (6'10" center) all played mostly on the

junior varsity last season.

The sophomore class is led by 6'5" power forward Randy Oostra. Last campaign as a freshman Oostra averaged 6.4 points along with 4.4 rebounds per contest in varsity play. Oostra did start a few games last season.

Other sophomores Jason Maas (6'3" guard), Adam Van Meeteren (6'4" forward) and Neal Brenneman (6'6" center) will be contributors this season after playing junior varsity last season.

Mike Miedema and Dylan Haak will be the two freshmen suiting varsity this season. A 6'3" guard, Miedema prepped at Southwest Christian in Edgerton, Minn., averaging 17 points and 4.5 rebounds per game for the Eagles.

Haak played high school basketball at Sunnyside Christian and averaged 22 points a contest. He garnered all-state first-team honors in the state of Washington as a 6'5" forward.

A tough early season schedule faces the Defenders with non-conference games versus Bellevue, Northwestern, Briar Cliff, Buena Vista, and Morningside. South

Dakota-Iowa Conference foes include Mount Marty and Dakota Wesleyan, ranked 16th and 23rd in the nation in the pre-season NAIA Division II poll.

The Defenders opened their season last night as the Bruins from Bellevue came to town. Bellevue has three starters back from a team that went 9-19 last season. Dordt defeated Bellevue by the score of 105-75 last season.

First half action last night was even, with neither team building much of a lead. But the Defenders exploded out of the gate in the second half, building up a 50-43 lead.

Dordt continued its push until it held a 77-62 lead with about eight minutes left to play. The Bruins slowly started to close the gap, but could never get closer than six points as the Defenders took a 95-87 win.

Brenneman led the team with 15 points. Vander Hoek, Bouma and Oostra each put in 12 counters. Fischer and Van Essen each hit double digits as well with ten points each.

Dordt puts its 1-0 record on the line Saturday night when Northwestern visits.

Women's basketball set for new season

by **James De Boer**
Sport Editor

In the powerful world of women's South Dakota-Iowa Conference basketball, it takes a good season to break the mold and enter the upper echelon of teams. The SDIC has a habit of putting its teams in the national rankings, including a second-place finish in the national tournament by Huron two years ago and Black Hills State last year.

Such is the situation that Dordt has entered. Since joining the conference two years ago, the Lady Defenders have gone 10-22 in loop play but are looking for that break-through season. The women finished 10-15 overall and 6-10 in the SDIC last year.

To sum up the 1997-98 Lady Defenders in one word, it would be height. On a roster of 14 players, seven of the women are 5'10" or taller, with five being six feet or taller. Headlining that group is six-foot junior Lisa Roos. As a freshman, Roos was among the nation's leaders in field goal percentage and has been the team leader ever since. She racked up big numbers last year with 14 points, nine rebounds and two and a half blocks per game.

Last year's starting power forward becomes this year's small forward. Sophomore Carla Geleynse, "only" 5'9", will take her ten points, seven rebounds and two steals per game to the outside.

Lynette Roos, a 5'6" shooting guard, is another returning starter. The senior hit for nine points and two and a half rebounds per game last year after transferring from Modesto JUCO.

Allison Vis returns at point guard. The 5'5" sophomore split time between the starting spot and coming off the bench last year. She averaged four points and over two and a half assists.

The Lady Defenders return two other players from last year's squad. Senior Cherilyn Dykstra is a solid 6'0" back-up at center. She averaged five

points, four boards and a block a game last year. Sophomore Marlene Van Wingerden adds experience in the back-court. The 5'6" point guard averaged four points and one and a half assists.

"We have an excellent nucleus of players back," said Head Coach Len Rhoda, "and we hope to integrate the new players."

Two of this year's new players are sophomores. Alyssa Van't Hul, who missed last year with a knee injury suffered during volleyball season, will be worked in at forward. The 5'11" Van't Hul will adjust into the team after volleyball season ends. Kelli Holwerda will add her 6'1" talent to the center spot. She is now ready to join the squad with the closing of the soccer season.

Dordt also welcomes a talented group of freshman. Six-foot Lori Roos completes the All-Roos Team. She will add to the center spot. Melissa Abee, a 5'10" forward, will join the basketball team when volleyball wraps up. Angie Oostenink adds an outside threat to the team. The 5'7" guard played high school ball at Western Christian. Heather and Heide Broekhuis, 5'7" and 5'4", join the team as guards after playing for Dordt's soccer team. Tonya Van Wyk completes the frame of six-footers, playing forward.

Coach Rhoda is in his 18th year as head coach of Dordt's program. His overall record is 197-238. Rick Vander Berg ends a two-year absence from coaching basketball, as he will work as the assistant coach for the women's team. Carle Vander Veen is the student manager.

Rhoda is high on this year. "We would like to be in the hunt for the playoffs," he said. "The competition is tough, but we have potential for a good team."

The Lady Defenders look ahead on their schedule and see two games each against three top-10 teams including a pair against national #1 Briar Cliff before Christmas. Dordt's open the season Saturday afternoon in Orange City against Northwestern.

Back on the Winning Track

by **Martin Dam**
Hockey Guy

To understand what makes the Dordt Blades so successful one must understand the little stories behind the big ones. Take sophomore Dave Vander Plaats for example. Last year at this time he was down at the bottom of the depth chart simply because there were too many good forwards out there ahead of him. On top of that, he was splitting time between hockey and baseball, where he mainly did spot relief pitching. So basically, he was picking splinters out of his rear in both sports.

Back to 1997. Vander Plaats dropped baseball to concentrate on hockey. He also switched from wing to defense, where the plan was to work him in slowly as he learned his new position. But with the unexpected departure of defenseman/coach Jeremy Huygen, Vander Plaats has been moved up to the 4-man defense rotation, which means he's playing roughly half of each game. And he's playing well.

The Blades have a history of finding ways to plug holes. They lost two sensational freshmen who did not return, but added scrappy transfer Kevin Tuininga and freshman Josh Vander Kraats. With the improved play of seniors Rich Vyn and Hendrik de Gier, they still

have three solid lines to send out. When goaltender Tim Hoogland couldn't make a game, back-up Josh Van Dyk, who first stepped between the nets in September, has played admirably. They're always patching holes, but they rarely leak.

Last weekend the boys travelled to Marshall, Minnesota for a pair of games against Southwest State. Scores were 7-2 and 9-7, both in our favor. Unfortunately, I didn't make those games, so I can't give you an in-depth description.

Fortunately, the Blades were back home this week playing the Iowa State JV team. Friday was a night to remember. First off, it was one of the best crowds of the season, with over 250 paying customers. Also, it was the premier of the Pizza Ranch Pizza draw. Big thanks to Rob Vandermeer for setting that up.

On top of all that, there was a heck of a game being played. The crowd was rocking. Bodies were flying, and people were putting the biscuit in the basket. Things were close the entire night, with neither team able to get up by more than a goal. Credit Van Dyk with some solid netminding.

Things looked grim in the closing minutes of the third. With the score tied 4-4, winger Greg van Leeuwen took a questionable penalty (they never would have

called it in Canada, anyway) and the Blades were forced to kill a penalty and hope for overtime.

At least, that's what I was thinking when Ben Saarloos intercepted a pass along the blueline and motored in for a break-away. As the ISU player who made the pass hauled Saarloos down from behind, Saarloos got his shot off and put the Blades ahead. We added an empty netter and went home 6-4 victors. It was one of the most exiting Blades games I've ever seen, and I've seen a lot.

Unfortunately, what goes up must come down, and come down they did. The boys came out flat on Saturday and never looked up. They were down 5-1 after the first period and went on to lose 11-3. Enough about that.

The team would like to thank everyone for the tremendous turn-out for Friday's games. Saturday attendance was sparse, but we'll take what we can get. This week we're in Luverne (that's the rink with the heating lamps, so you don't have to dress for tundra-like conditions) taking on the SDSU Jackrabbits. These guys always have a competitive team, and I'm sure this year will be no exception. I know there's a big basketball game on Saturday, but you've got no excuses Friday night. So get out there and win yourself a pizza.

Current Events: A bit of the larger community

by Brenda Heuker
Staff Reporter

Cambridge, Mass.

On Monday, the judge in the case of British au pair, Luise Woodward - who was convicted of the second degree murder of infant Matthew Eappen - decided to reduce Woodward's conviction to involuntary manslaughter. This reduction included a reduction of sentence from the mandatory life sentence with possibility of parole in 15 years to her current sentence - released with time served.

Luise Woodward is an 18 year-old involved in an exchange program where youth travel to another country to provide low cost child care while having the opportunity for a cross cultural experience. The term for this is au pair which mean that the youths are not trained nannies. Woodward was convicted of shaking baby Mattie causing his

death. The issue was not clear cut, however, as the baby also had a three week old wrist fracture and an apparent skull fracture.

In Elton, England, friends and family of Woodward were outraged by the conviction and seriously questioned the American justice system. Obviously this is not a simple private domestic tragedy.

Washington - China exchange

Last week a main media focus was the visit of China's Jiang Zemin. The news commentary showed crowds of people demonstrating against Zemin wherever he went and raised the issue of human rights abuses in China. Those abuses include charges of human rights violation in Tibet.

In addition to this visit the recent drop in the Hong Kong stock market is believed to have had a major effect on the New York stock exchange in it's recent

drop of more than 500 points.

Finally, this week back in China, Zemin signed an agreement with Russia's Boris Yeltsin finally settling the boarder dispute between the two countries.

Middle East -

Saddam Hussein is again making headlines around the world as he ordered American inspectors (part of the United Nations investigation team) to leave the country. According to U.S. Media Saddam is not playing war by the rules and is withholding information on deadly chemical warfare and missile programs.

Observatory flights over Iraq were scheduled to take place Monday as Saddam met with military advisors to consider actions. However, the flight occurred as planned and without any Iraqi response, possibly due to treats of heavy counter action if the pilot was endangered in anyway.

by Justin Westerhof



ACTF judges to critique Dordt grad's philosophical play, *Being Filled*

by Sara Treick
Staff Reporter

The first time production of the play "Being Filled" by 1996 Dordt graduate Luke Schelhaas (who is now working on the television show "Touched By An Angel") is being performed at the New World Theater on November 21 and 22. This 30 to 40 minute play is directed by Dordt student, James Van Dyk, a senior theater arts major. The cast is made up Dordt students: Jeff Ploegstra with Josh Buys and Kevin Schenk with Matt Breems, both pairs playing the same brothers, along with Paula Treick, Chris Archer, Allison Kersbergen, Angela Vaags, Jill Schemper, Mark De Jong, Luke Isham, and Kostya Kekhaew. The play deals with the philosophical as well as the technological side of life with a postmodern setting.

Two judges from ACTF (American College Theater Festival) are coming to critique the play. ACTF reviews new, young plays in order to look at the play and critique it compared with the other plays in the region. If chosen, "Being Filled" will go to this prestigious festival. This is a play not to be missed, so get your tickets at the Box Office in the SUB for \$1. It will definitely be worth your time.

Dumpster Mayhem: Is it getting in there???

by Sean Voogt
SHAMAR Correspondent

As you may have noticed, you have been supplied with blue bins in your room for recycling purposes. If you haven't, you are dumb. But that is an editorial for another time and place.

Getting the blue bins was an effort of everyone's favorite, Student

Forum. Thank them for this. It is about time that Dordt College took recycling seriously, and we can take it to new heights. In order to do so, we must realize that the stuff in these bins is getting recycled. If you dump your room bins into the blue dumpster outside your living quarters, it is getting recycled. The is not a trick. It is going to the good Sioux County recycling plant and getting, well... Uh, recycled. So that is where it starts. If you know it is getting recycled then you will recycle right? Right.

Some people have been asking what gets recycled. Well I don't mind telling you but there is also the fine

print on the side of the blue bin (the sticker) that can inform you on what is recyclable. Many things can be recycled if you buy #1 and #2 plastics which are in the end recyclable. Sweet. One major thing that cannot be recycled for some crazy reason is colored paper. Why use it then? I know not. Oh well. The blue bins were one small step for man, one huge step

for Dordt College and let's just get the handle on those first.

Please recycle. In the nineties, it needs to be a way of life.

"It is about time that Dordt College took recycling seriously, and we can take it to new heights. In order to do so, we must realize that the stuff in these bins is getting recycled."



FREE

Garlic Cheezebread

with the purchase of a
Large Pizza

at a regular price

251 N. Main Expires 11/30/97 722-3988

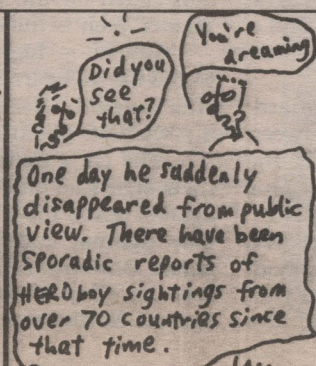
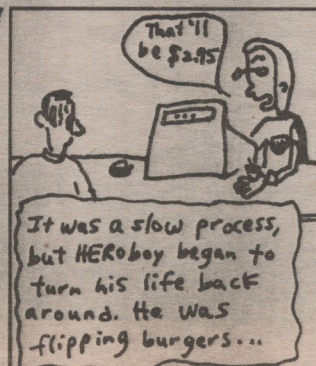
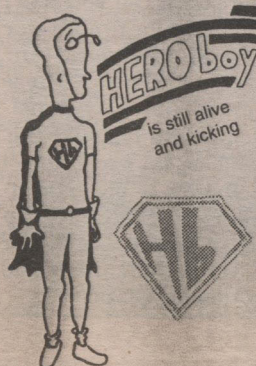
Clothing Cellar

MOVED - now located at
40 3rd St. NW
North of Centre Mall



- ✓ Name Brand Clothes
- ✓ Jeans for Guys & Gals
- ✓ Sweatshirts all sizes
- ✓ Socks

722-1346



*****32 SPRING BREAK SHOPPING DAYS LEFT!**

NOW IS THE TIME TO GUARANTEE THE LOWEST RATES AND BEST HOTELS. PRICES WILL INCREASE DEC. 15TH!

LEISURE TOURS HAS PACKAGES TO SOUTH PADRE, CANCUN, JAMAICA AND FLORIDA. GROUP DISCOUNTS FOR 6 OR MORE!

800-838-8203 or
www.leisuretours.com

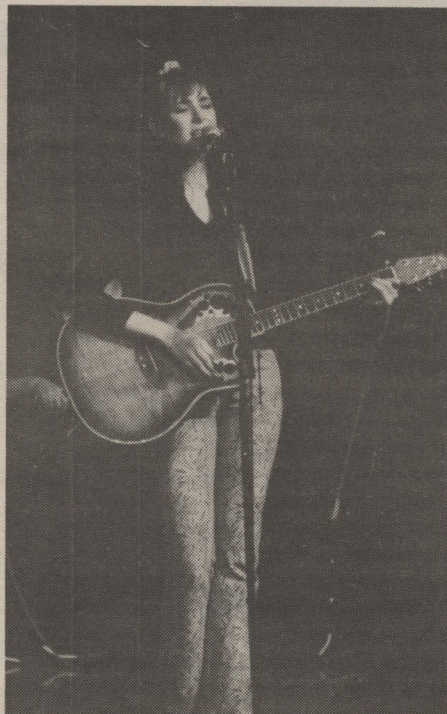
Considering Lily entertains, challenges

by Bridget De Yager
Staff Reporter

Saturday night was a lively night in the B.J. Haan auditorium. The band Considering Lily performed a concert, with the ever-popular Endorphin opening for them. This was my first opportunity to see Endorphin perform this year, and I noticed a few differences in the band. Not only do they all have the same haircut now, but there are also notable changes in their performance. An increase in the energy level was apparent, especially in lead singer Evan Jasper. Bounding across the stage, Jasper broke the unwritten rule that Christians shouldn't jump around while singing praise to God. A Dordt favorite, Endorphin's mix of message and music once again pleased the masses.

After Endorphin's opening, Considering Lily took the stage. Lead singer Serene Campbell, eight months pregnant, was absent from Saturday night's performance. Her sister, Pearl Barrett, who usually sings harmony and a few lead vocals, took over the lead vocals and also played acoustic guitar. Barrett more than overcame her sister's absence with her own clear, intense voice. Singing all ten of the songs on their self-titled CD, plus "Salvation" by the Cranberries, Considering Lily exhibited considerable musical talent. A mix of pop, rock, and a little alternative, their CD contains an upbeat mix of cheerful lyrics and serene reflections.

My personal favorite, the song "Come Rest," performed Saturday night on acoustic guitar, was a beautiful, melodic expression of the peace of God's comfort. A crowd favorite was their rendition of "Get Together," on which they asked the audience to sing along. The chorus—Come on people now/ Smile on your brother/ Everybody get together/ Try to love



Laura De Jong

Pearl Barrett took center stage for Considering Lily in her sister's absence.

bridge of the song—"The masquerade is over/ Identity revealed/ And just like I told you/ I'm going to stand for truth/ And it's going to be real" is a strong challenge to the members of the Dordt community to be real in all aspects of their lives.

Honest, sincere, and creative, Considering Lily provided a concert which was not only fun and entertaining, but also refreshing and inspiring. Although there was only a small crowd at the concert, I think there are quite a few people on Dordt's campus who might enjoy this upbeat band and their music.

one another—inspired some members of the audience to express their, shall we say "free" sides as they danced in the front of the B.J. Haan. The song "Real" is one of the songs on their album that powerfully conveys their message. Barrett, during the concert, made the point that they are people just like the students at Dordt, and "Real" express some of the struggles that come with being real and sincere. The

REVIEW

MOVIE REVIEW

Trainspotting

by Robert L. Reitsma
Art Critic

Heroin is powerful.

Choose life, choose a job, choose a career, choose a family, choose a big television, choose washing machines, cars, compact disc players and electrical tin openers. Choose good health, low cholesterol and dental insurance. Choose fixed interest mortgage repayments, choose a starter home, choose your friends. Choose leisure wear and matching luggage, choose a three piece suit on higher purchase in a range of fabrics, choose DUI and wonder who you are on a Sunday morning, choose sitting on that couch watching mind-numbing, spirit-crushing game shows stuffing junk food into your mouth. Choose rotting away at the end of it all, pissing you last in a miserable home, nothing more than an embarrassment to the selfish, [screwed-up] brats you've spawned to replace yourself. Choose your future, choose life.

But why would I want to do a thing like that? I chose not choose life, I chose something else. And the reasons... There are no reasons. Who needs reasons when you've got heroin?

The preceding is the opening of the movie, *Trainspotting*. The character of the movie, Renton, has this outlook on life. He sees mainstream society on the outside, totally separate from the manner in which he is living. He feels there is no way for him to obtain the so-called "normal" life. And he doesn't really want to because he has something that tops big televisions, cars, leisure suits and electrical tin openers. He has something that is better than sex. He has heroin.

Trainspotting is a film that depicts heroin as a God-damning waste of time. It is the story of Mark Renton who, along with his mates, Sickboy, Spud and Bigby, is a heroin addict. Heroin is life.

During the course of the film, Renton tries integrating with mainstream society and finds that it is nearly impossible. He gets a job and is trying to make an honest living, but his friends just won't let him do it. It is a constant struggle between peer pressure and a "normal" life.

Trainspotting is an incredible example of sin. It not only portrays heroin in a bad light, but it also points out the flaws of the consumer-friendly mainstream. The film is also well done artistically. The scenes that represent a heroin high are very powerful and almost sickening. *Trainspotting* does, however, require a mature viewer.



Kittybear Typing Service

EILEEN FEDERICO - Owner

Phone: 712-472-2338
Fax: 712-472-2382

Specializing in Letters,
Term Papers, Theses, Resumes

Medical & Legal Records
And Transcription

-Renae's-

Renae Visscher, Owner/Stylist

-Greta Van Zee, Stylist-
-Julie Ten Napel, Stylist-
-Janelle Meendering, Stylist-
-Paula Oostenink, Stylist-
-Gwen Van Roekel, Stylist-
-Missy Driesen, Stylist-

Hours:

Mon.-Thur.: 9-9 **722-0008**
Fri.-Sat.: 9-5

Located near the northwest
entrance of the Center Mall
251 N. Main St. 208



722-3988

Order your pizza by phone, or
come visit us with your
friends.

251 N. Main
(in Centre Mall)
Sioux Center, IA

STAFF

The *Diamond* is published by students of Dordt College to present and discuss events on campus and beyond. Any letters, comments, or opinions are welcome. Contributions must be signed and received before 5:00pm the Monday before publication to be printed in that issue. Send contributions to:

Diamond
Dordt College, Box 116
Sioux Center, IA 51250

Opinions expressed are not necessarily the view of the *Diamond* or of Dordt College, but represent the views of the individual writers. The *Diamond* reserves the right to edit or refuse publication of any contribution.

Editor-in-Chief:

Jon Postma

Assistant Editor / Layout:

Laryn Bakker

Features Editor:

Susan Vandermeer

News Editor:

Emily Klassen

Photo Editors:

Laura DeJong

Andy Stravers

Sports Editor:

James De Boer

Copy Editor:

Matthew McNatt

Robin Vis

Freelance Editor:

Paula Treick

Columnists:

Laura Byker

Jamie Stoy

Sarah Walsh

Dirk Zwart

Advertising Manager:

Rachel Heikes

Advertising Design:

Konstantin Kekhaev

Cartoonists:

Laryn Bakker

Seth Koerner

Justin Westerhof

Art Critics:

Robert Reitsma

David Schaap

Kirstin Vander Giessen

Ryan Vande Kraats

James VanDyk

Staff:

Hannah Atwood

Monica Bierma

Sarah Bliss

Craig Broek

Stephanie Brown

Terry Bultje

Martin Dam

Bridget De Yager

Brady Fopma

Sean Gregg

Jesse Groen

Brenda Heuker

Lieschen Hoksema

Tim Kobes

Janel Kragt

Heather Kuipers

Todd Lee

Kevin Mass

Jeff Memmelaar

Jon Moss

Melissa Phaneuf

Kristin Sybesma

Tami VanKooten

Jill Vossen

Cheryl Wierda

Prayer for the Persecuted Church

by Andrea Voogt
Staff Reporter

"For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me."

Matthew 25:42-43

Sunday, Nov. 16, 1997, has been declared the International Day of Prayer for the Suffering Church.

This day was initiated by the World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF), but is now endorsed by many prominent Christian leaders of all denominations, including Charles Colson, President of Prison Fellowship International and Chairman of the IDOP Advisory Board; Dr. Tony Campolo, Professor at Eastern College; David Engelhard, General Secretary of the Christian Reformed Church of North America; Dr. William Bright, President of Campus Crusade for Christ International; Hon. William Armstrong, retired U.S. Senator; and many others. According to Dordt campus pastor Don Draayer, this wide breadth of people supporting IDOP gives it authenticity.

Christians often do not know what is going on in the world around them. According to Pastor Draayer, the media tends to do us a disservice for the persecution of Christians is not a significant issue for them. WEF has an article on the worldwide web which has also been sent around as a forwarded e-mail, stating that more Christians have been martyred in the 20th century than in the previous 19 centuries combined. Christians are being persecuted all over the world in China, Cuba, Somalia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, even in the good old U.S. of A. WEF is calling on the western church to unite in prayer for the suffering church.

On Sunday, Nov. 16, there will be a special G.I.F.T. service. A number of people representing different facets of international and local persecution will speak briefly, and afterward, people who have been designated ahead of time to pray will respond in prayer to each area of persecution that has been addressed. There will be plenty of singing in confidence that God will hear the prayers of His people. As Pastor Draayer said, "It's through prayer that God works and He can do anything, but He waits for us to take an interest."

Service Learning Opportunities

by Sean Gregg
Staff Reporter

Service Learning is coming to Dordt. Actually it is already here. Since Service Learning opportunities are here, what are they?

Service Learning is small at the moment. There are currently five schools in the program. In two years there will be a conference on Service Learning. Dordt will be a co-host for this conference. A book will also be written. It is hoped that these two outlets will provide information for other schools to be involved.

There are "a ton of opportunities" according to Jane Manuel, a student member of the task force. The point of the program is to add opportunities for students to put into practice what they are learning in "a service fashion". If you are a Spanish major you may choose to work with a Spanish speaking family in the area. Projects involved in the program could be individual projects or group projects.

Students need to write a proposal describing what they want to do to get a project under way and submit the proposal to the Dordt task force. As

the name of the program suggests, the proposals should combine a service task with learning. The projects will be "incorporated with a class" according to Manuel. They will review the proposals and decide if they are worthy of being funded. Dordt will use money from a grant from the Lily Foundation to finance the projects. If anyone has an idea now they can take it to the task force for consideration for next semester.

Students who want more information can pick up a brochure when they are printed. The layout of the brochure is now being discussed by the task force. The brochure will include a short discussion of how service and learning are connected. This will include portions of "The Educational Task Of Dordt College" and "The Educational Framework of Dordt College." Students can also check the web page that is connected to the Dordt College home page.

Ed Zlatkowski will be on campus on November 24 through 26. He will be available for several formal sessions when students and faculty can ask him questions about the program. He will also speak in chapel.

Students given opportunity to voice ideas on Commons reform

by Martin Dam and Kevin Maas
Staff Reporters

Those of you who have been around long enough to remember the 1995-96 school year should be able to recall the last time Dordt had open forums for student input. Yes, during that landmark year students spoke out and made a difference. The freshman-initiated Curfew Forum resulted in the current policy on late night comings and goings in North and East halls. The Great 1996 Housing Debate was largely resolved during an volatile two-hour forum later in the year.

For all the current freshmen and sophomores who missed these proud events, you may have a chance to attend an event you can tell your grandchildren about—the upcoming Commons Forum! We're shooting for Tuesday, Nov 18 at 9:30 in C160. Before then, you can sit down with those who normally hear you complain about the Commons, look at what you've said, and hone your casual complaints into hard-hitting arguments to use at the forum.

So, if you've had an itch to gripe about what you've been eating, don't underestimate your ability to make a difference. Plan on attending the Commons Forum and make your contribution to making things better for yourself and future generations of underclassmen.

Commons Subcommittee Update

On a sunny Thursday morning two weeks ago, the five members of the Student Forum Commons Subcommittee piled into a Dordt van driven by none other than Curtis Taylor. Was this a pleasure trip? Not at all. We had a mission. What was that mission, you ask? To get free meals at the cafeterias of other

schools while finding out how their food service compared to what we get here at the Dordt Commons.

Beyond the free food, we as a subcommittee realized we had no idea what we should expect to get from a college food service. We figured the easiest way to find out was to visit some of our rivals, and see how they eat. With that in mind, we made the arduous trek to beautiful Storm Lake (that's right, Okiboji is not the only lake in Iowa), home to the terribly overfunded Buena Vista University. After fighting our way through their school job fair, we received a late lunch at their brand new cafeteria, a set-up so well-designed it felt like we were at a fancy hotel restaurant.

We were awed by the choice of dishes, hard ice cream (which could also be made into milkshakes), deli sandwiches, all-day hours offered to students with the high-end meal plan, and much more. It was one of the most impressive spreads we had ever seen, even with their permanent pizza bar not being operational yet. After a long, amiable chat with the BVU administration, we reluctantly headed southwest towards our next destination.

Once we arrived at the wealthy western Iowan metropolis of Sioux City, we visited Morningside and Briar Cliff colleges. Morningside had the familiar 2-door system, but their set-up offered numerous choice selection on the way to the main course line. High points included 17 different types of cereal; lots of bread, bagels and English muffins available anytime and steak night on Saturdays.

We didn't actually eat at Morningside, because we had given ourselves enough time to negotiate the difficult and confusing route to the other side of town and Briar Cliff College. There, we were faced with a supper featuring steak

and pepper fajitas, pizza, burgers and dogs and vegetarian casserole—and that was just the main course options. Once again, we had a good talk with their food-service manager and his helpful assistant, who we believe used to play football without a helmet.

Now before we turn around and demand changes, we need to remember some other facts beyond the ones you have just read. First of all, all of the places we visited were catered by large corporations. BVU and Morningside are run by Marriot, and Briar Cliff by Aramark. This means they have a much greater buying power than an independent food service.

Despite this, in virtually every case and regardless of the type of meal plan, the students served by these corporate foodservices were paying almost \$500 a year more than we pay at Dordt. As we tried to better understand the costs, we also found out that a sizeable percentage (although nobody was willing to admit exactly what that percentage was) of the money goes back to the college instead of to the food service.

In our case, some of our money goes to Commons operator Carrie Foods, and the rest goes to various Dordt funds. We realized that simple calculations of the price of each meal isn't accurate: although Dordt must pay for the building, its maintenance, and such things as plates and glasses, some of the money from your food bill goes to that same black place where most of your housing costs end up.

So the number one conclusion we came to is that compared to other colleges, we as students have no reason to complain about the price of the meal-plan. There are costs we don't understand, but as far as we can tell, the next cheapest way to eat at Dordt without cooking for

yourself is to graze on the lawn. Once you figure in Carrie Foods' inherent overhead costs, the only way left to cut costs would be to buy less food.

However, there are things that can be changed. When we went and talked to him, we found that Carrie Foods director Jim Calkhoven was a very friendly guy. Despite what people may think, Jim is constantly trying to find ways to make the Commons a better place. Jim has brought out new vegetarian and "healthy choice" menus and added an assortment of new food at various meals, all the result of students' suggestions and needs. This past summer, the dining room received a major facelift and rearranging that has greatly simplified the line problem that plagued the Commons for years. Plans for remodeling, however, were shelved until after other construction is completed.

When we told Jim about how impressed we were with the amount of choice we saw at other colleges, he admitted that the Commons didn't have the facilities to give as many options as some people might like. However, he also said that offering more choice for certain types of food wouldn't be a problem if people were to ask—it wouldn't cost the Commons any more to vary the selection of many things.

Once again, Jim reminded us of how he tries to respond to student requests. "They don't know what can happen if they just talk to me," he asserted. "We've had students give us ideas we never thought of before." He also expressed his eagerness to hear the results of the upcoming Commons Forum. So, don't be afraid to speak out. Whether you want to talk to Jim or bring your issue to the forum, you don't have to wait any longer to ask for change in your college dining experience.